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Hon. Judge J. Frederick Motz  
H.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
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Judge Motz:

I am writing to encourage the **rejection** of the proposed settlement to the United States v. Microsoft antitrust case. The proposed settlement, although initially attractive, stifles free trade by allowing Microsoft to profit handsomely from its monopolistic practices. The settlement, by effectively shutting out existing competition for school software, further restricts trade and harms those few competitors Microsoft still has. I wish to encourage the serious consideration of the **alternate settlement** put forward by **Red Hat Software**. By encouraging the use of open source software in our school system, we provide the means for technologically inclined students to further their education: every detail of the software is available for pedagogical purposes, whether self-guided or explicitly taught. The Red Hat proposal addresses the **fundamental** question of hardware: no software will do any good without the modern computer systems to run it on. Linux-based solutions work much better on substandard and donated hardware, making the most of the limited resources actually available to the students. With low-cost hardware and free software (the generosity of Red Hat in offering to provide support for free should not be underestimated) our schools can spend their money elsewhere, on important necessities such as books and well-trained teachers. **This** is the straightest path towards the improvement of our school systems. Allowing Microsoft to crow over software "contributions" valued many times over cost neither restored freedom to our marketplaces nor serves our students. Penalize Microsoft with **hardware** costs, allow teachers freedom in choosing their software solutions (isn't this the fundamental issue in the case?), and seize the opportunity to **truly** benefit our students as the case is settled.

Sincerely,

C. Scott Ananian